

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING  
OSTHOFF RESORT, ELKHART LAKE, WI  
MAY 23, 2006**

Chairman Edgar Harvey called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM. Secretary John Edelblute called the roll.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Richard Kirchmeyer, Dist. 1  
Michael Reiter, Dist. 2  
Raymond Smith, Dist. 2  
Allen Opall, Dist. 3  
Roger Sabota, Dist. 3  
Jerry Aulik, Dist. 4  
Tony Janecek, Dist. 4  
Mark Schultz, Dist. 5  
David Puhl, Dist. 6  
Tony Blattler, Dist. 6  
Dale Maas, Dist. 7

Richard Koerner, Dist. 7  
John Edelblute, Dist. 8  
Edger Harvey, Dist. 8  
Mike Rogers, Dist. 9  
Larrie Hazen, Dist. 9  
Joe Caputo, Dist. 10  
David Poff, Dist. 11  
Robert Bohmann, Dist. 11  
Edward Rewolinski, Dist. 12  
Theodore Lind, Dist. 12

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

Joe Weiss, Dist. 1  
Russell Hitz, Dist. 5  
Kenneth Risley, Dist. 10

**DNR PERSONNEL PRESENT:**

AnnMarie Kutzke  
Al Phelan  
Kurt Thiede  
Scott Hassett  
Tim Andryak  
Rick Prosise

**GUESTS:**

George Meyer, WWF  
Mark Graus, Cong. Green's Staff

AnnMarie Kutzke handed out copies of the Congress Budget and explained its various elements.

The next order of business was Resolution #340406, appointment of the DNR Secretary by the DNR Board. After minimal discussion a motion to advance was made by Rich Kirchmeyer. Second was by Ted Lind. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion was then held on Gubernatorial Candidate Mark Green's proposal to split the DNR into two agencies. A motion to oppose was made by Dick Koerner. Second was by Ted Lind.

DNR Secretary Scott Hassett spoke against the split. He emphasized that the Agency is more efficient having all services under one tent. He gave a brief history as to how the present agency evolved. It is his contention that it would cost the taxpayers more

to have two agencies rather than the current one. Al Opall asked Mr. Hassett why the Governor hasn't taken a lead on this issue? Mr. Hassett said he wasn't in a position to speak for the Governor.

Former DNR Secretary George Meyer spoke against a split stating that it is easier to solve problems with one agency rather than two. He pointed out that Michigan split their DNR, and then had to increase the number of employees. This cost approximately \$4 million dollars more per year. He is also in favor of a Board appointed DNR Secretary.

Mark Graus, representing Congressman Mark Green spoke in defense of the split proposal. It is their contention that the DNR would be more efficient and serve the public needs more responsibly as two distinct entities. He said that their proposal would keep the Conservation Congress intact. There was no clear position taken as to what would comprise the two new bureaus.

Discussion followed. Joe Caputo spoke against the split along with Dale Maas, and Mark Schultz. The political ramifications of Congressman Green's proposal, e.g., possibly losing a portion of the sportsperson's vote, were pointedly pointed out by Al Opall, Tony Janecek, Dick Koerner, and Dave Poff. Chairman Harvey said that the Congress would not take a vote on a campaign proposal.

A motion was made by Dick Koerner that we "Reaffirm our opposition to the principal of splitting the DNR into two Agencies." This was seconded by Joe Caputo. Motion carried unanimously.

Committee discussion followed regarding paring down the number of people on committees. Thoughts expressed were only two committee members from a district, and a maximum of two committee assignments per delegate. Questions were raised on how to treat new Congress members, and how much too numerically reduce committees.

A motion was made by Joe Caputo, seconded by Dave Puhl, to have only "one committee assignment per delegate, with the exception of AD Hoc committees, and Chairs of committees, and their Secretaries." Motion failed, 7 yes, 9 no.

A motion was then made by Tony Janecek, seconded by Jerry Aulik, to have the councilors contact each member in their district to see if they wanted to only serve on one committee. Motion failed. No supporting voices were heard.

After more discussion, it was the group consensus to leave the Executive Committee handle committee assignments as they have in the past. No vote was taken.

Secretary John Edelblute read the list of committee chairs and secretaries that the Executive Committee put together immediately before the Council Meeting. The Executive Committee will meet again June 23, 2006, in Stevens Point to finalize committee assignments for this term.

Chairman Ed Harvey asked that the District Meetings be held between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of August. All Committee Chairs must get their meeting dates and agendas into AnnMarie ASAP.

Rich Kirchmeyer brought up information on the "Learn to Bear Hunt" can be found on the DNR web site.

Dale Maas talked about the youth program held at the Dodge County Fairgrounds. He said it turned out well, with many well behaved, eager to learn children attending. Next year should be better yet as the program grows.

Dick Koerner asked about what personal expenses are reimbursable when done on behalf of the Congress? He was not reimbursed for postage, photocopies, and phone calls on behalf of the Migratory Committee. He was not reimbursed for mileage to Bill Murphy's funeral. AnnMarie explained the printing and postage requirements. They must be routed through her office to be considered. There is a bid process that must be followed. DNR would arrange for any printing and postage. These two items are not reimbursable to Congress Members. Individuals can only be reimbursed directly for meals, mileage, and hotel rooms. Al Phelan confirmed this.

Directions were given to Kohler Andrae State Park. Upon adjournment, the Executive Council was meeting with the Natural resources Board for a tour of the park followed by a cook out.

Meeting adjourned at 3:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John W. Edelblute  
Secretary